

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 L-03

MC-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 EB-11 TRSE-00

COME-00 PRS-01 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /093 W

----- 106346

R 101241Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 758

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

CINCUSAFE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 2928

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : MASS, NATO, BE

SUBJECT: F-104 REPLACEMENT

1. MAAG SOURCE REVEALED TODAY THAT FOUR-COUNTRY STEERING COMMITTEE MAKERS ON F-104 REPLACEMENT HAD ARRIVED AT CONCLUSION THAT FORMAL REPRESENTATIONS TO BOTH FRENCH AND AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS WILL TAKE PLACE. LETTER SPECIFYING EXACT QUESTIONS HAS BEEN DRAFTED BY FOUR NATION COMMITTEE AND IN BELGIUM CASE IS AWAITING DECISION AS TO WHICH MINISTER WILL SIGN IT. LETTER IS EXPECTED TO BE ON ITS WAY TO DOD MY 17 MAY 74. LETTER TO DOD WILL BE SIGNED BY ONE OF FOUR MINISTERS IN BELGIAN GOVERNMENT (PRIME MINISTER, FOREIGN MINISTER, MINISTER OF DEFENSE OR MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS).

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2. EVALUATION TEAM FROM EACH OF THE FOUR COUNTRIES WILL

VISIT GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN BOTH FRANCE AND U.S., THEY WILL ALSO VISIT SELECTED AIRCRAFT COMPANIES IN BOTH COUNTRIES. ALTHOUGH DECISION IS NOT COMPLETELY FIRM AS OF NOW AS TO WHICH COMPANIES ARE INVOLVED, THEY WILL INCLUDE ONE FRENCH (DASSAULT SUPER MIRAGE) AND ONE U.S. (NORTHROP P-530 COBRA). POSSIBILITY OF A SECOND U.S. COMPANY BEING CONTACTED EXISTS. COUNTRIES WILL BE VISITED ONE AFTER THE OTHER WITH FRANCE PROBABLY BEING VISITED FIRST.

3. AT FOREIGN MINISTER'S FAREWELL DINNER FOR AMBASSADOR, FORMER PRIME MINISTER EYSKENS, IN PRESENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTER OF FINANCE MINISTER, STATED FLATLY TO AMBASSADOR THAT NO DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN BY GOB TO PURCHASE SUPER MIRAGE F-1. STRAUSSZ-HUPE

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NNN

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